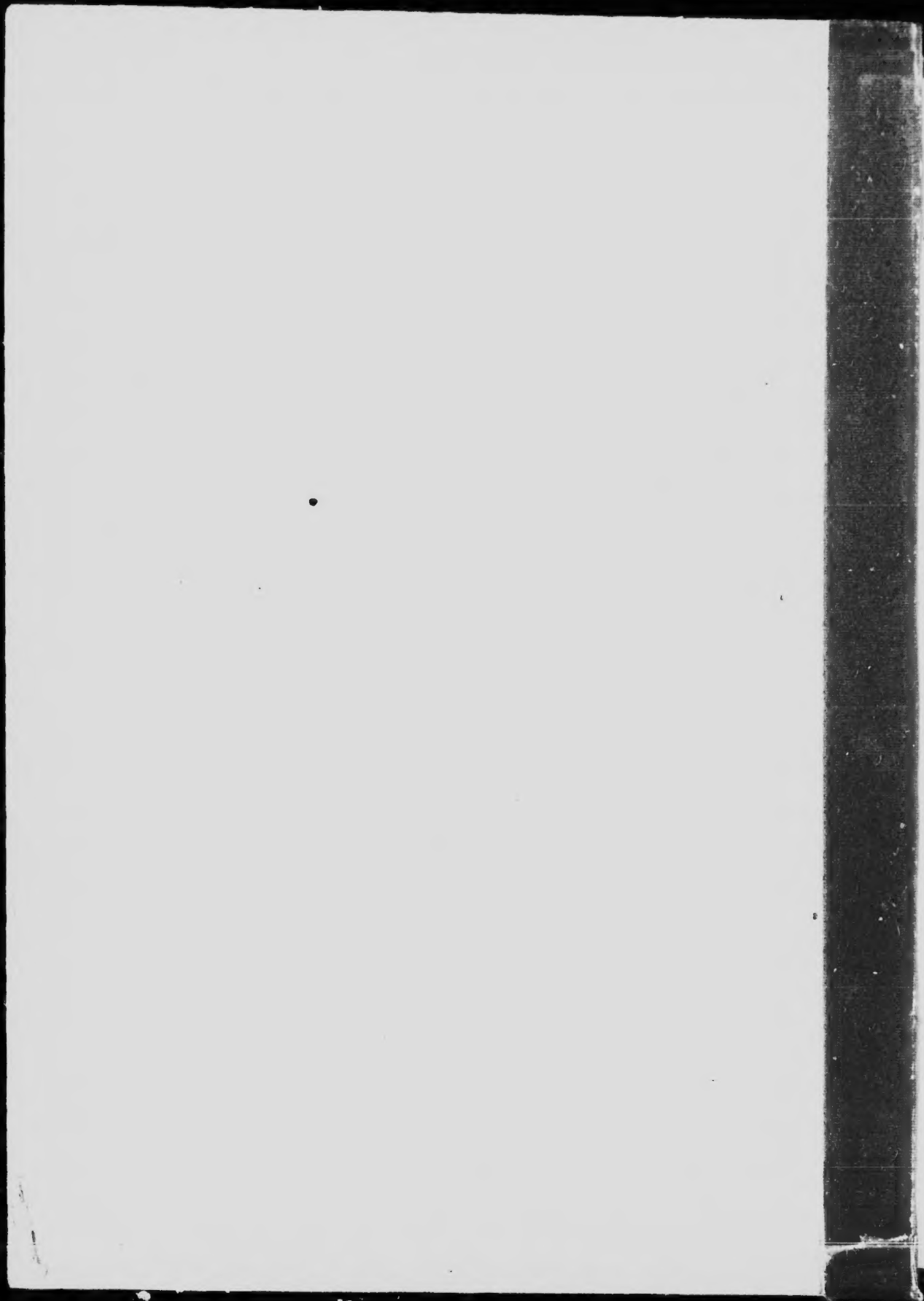




# **THE FISHERIES OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

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**LECTURE  
DELIVERED IN ST. JOHN'S,  
NEWFOUNDLAND, BY MR. WALTER  
DUFF OF THE FISHERY BOARD  
FOR SCOTLAND**



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH  
1914**



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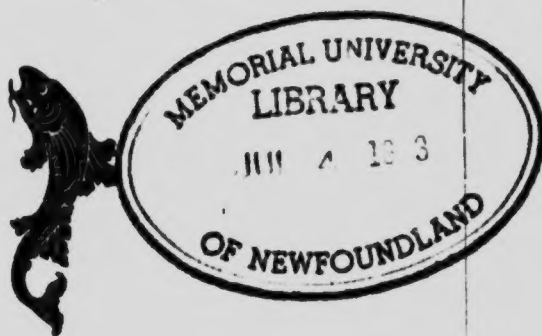
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER, 25TH  
1914



# The Newfoundland Fisheries

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Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

The Prime Minister, Sir Edward Morris, when he was in London, asked the Colonial Office to obtain from the Scotch Fisheries Board the services of one of their Inspectors to report to the Newfoundland Government on the Fisheries generally; what kind of fish are to be found; the methods of fishing in use, and whether they can be improved; on the adoption in Newfoundland of the Scotch cure of herring, and on the possible development of a trade in fresh fish and the best means for its collection and delivery.

I have been in the service of the Fishery Board for Scotland for 32 years for 23 of which I have had charge of three of the largest fishing centres on the east coast of Scotland, and at present I am in charge of the District of Peterhead. I was therefore selected by the Board to make the investigation required.

On my arrival in St. John's on the 24th of July the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Piccott, placed at my disposal the services of Mr. A. Morgan, a practical fisherman employed by that department to go round the Island with me and assist me in obtaining what information I might require. Unfortunately I was too late for the caplin season which had come to an end a week before my arrival. Moreover this year the Squid came in unusually late so I was able to see exemplified in a striking way the paralyzing effect caused by the absence of bait. Every harbour we went into during the month of August contained schooners from Nova Scotia and the

United States as well as from Newfoundland, waiting a supply of squid to enable them to proceed to the fishing ground on the Grand Banks.

## THE BAIT PROBLEM.

I was greatly struck with the difficulty of securing bait at the period of the year when most required, when the weather conditions, in July and August, are the most favourable for fishing.

In Placentia Bay during the last two weeks of August it was pitiable indeed to observe a number of schooners, each with a crew of 20 to 25 men, waiting anxiously the arrival of the squid and making ineffectual attempts to secure small quantities of lance or herring. Not only the crews of these schooners but the shore fishermen were held up for the same reason. By the end of August the patience of many of them became exhausted, and I was informed that several of the schooner Captains discharged their crews rather than keep them doing nothing any longer. Now, why should this be the case? Why should fishermen be lying idle for weeks for the want of squid when other bait can be easily secured at a time when cod are in abundance almost at their very door. As a proof of this I may mention that one or two fishermen when I was at Mortier Bay obtained a small quantity, half a barrel or so, of Lance, and caught with it no less than 40 quintals of cod. Herring is every whit as good as lance, AND I AM CONVINCED THAT IF FISHERMEN WERE POSSESSED OF A FEW DRIFT NETS A SUFFICIENT SUP-

**PLY COULD BE SECURED DAILY, TO ENABLE THEM TO PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK. IN SCOTLAND THIS IS EFFECTED BY STEAM AND SAIL LINERS** engaged in the cod and ling fishery, carrying a small fleet of nets which are used every night for the purpose of catching herrings for bait, and they seldom fail to secure a sufficient supply. On hauling their nets they at once bait their great lines (which in Newfoundland are known as bultows or trawls) shoot and haul them before coming ashore, so that the catching of herrings for bait by nets and the fishing for cod and ling and other fishes by lines, are carried on in conjunction with one another. I am aware that in Newfoundland, fishermen here and there do make an attempt at fishing for herrings for this purpose, but only with a net fixed to the rock side and if no success be met with they never think of going out and searching for the herring as we do in Scotland, although everywhere we went the fishermen assured us there was no lack of herrings, but that they were not inside the inner arms but out in the deep water of the bays.

### THE HERRING FISHERY.

I have dealt first with the question of bait as it is of more vital importance than almost anything else.

I will pass on now to the fish mostly obtained. The principal fish in Newfoundland is the cod, so much so, that it overshadows all other fish. Its total value last year was £1,644,700 whilst the value of the herrings was only £79,963. Yet from my own observations and from the information I was able to acquire there seems to me no doubt, that properly handled, **THE HERRING FISHERY MAY BECOME ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AND AS VALUABLE AS THE COD.**

In Scotland the value of all fish caught and landed in 1913 amounted to almost £4,000,000 sterling. Of this large sum more than one half was produced by the herring fishery. This branch of the trade gives employment

to about 61,000 persons, including fishermen, coopers, gutters, packers, etc. there are 5,000 boats engaged in their value including nets and other gear amounting to £3,000,000 sterling.

The importance of the Scotch herring fishery may be further gauged from the fact that the amount received by the fishermen themselves for herrings landed in 1913 amounted to £2,087,754. If we add to this value of the herrings caught by Scotch fishermen in the Irish and English waters their **LAST YEAR'S EARNINGS FROM HERRING ALONE REACHED ALMOST THE SUM OF £3,000,000.**

### THE POOR CURE.

The curing industry is also an important source of income to a very large number of people. Of the total quantity of herrings landed in Scotland in 1913, 1,616,426 barrels were cured, for which the curers realized the sum of £2,914,711 being an **AVERAGE OF 41/- OR ABOUT 10 DOLLARS PER BARREL.** The Newfoundland herring are excellent herring, the main difficulty is the careless and ineffective method of curing and still more **THE WANT OF PROPER AND RELIABLE BARRELS.** The same difficulty was experienced at one time in Scotland. **THE TOTAL CATCH for that country IN 1809 WAS ONLY 34,701 BARRELS,** about half as much as that which was obtained in 1913, the Bay of Islands and Bonne Bay namely 65,534 barrels. The price paid to fishermen in Scotland being very poor only about 60 cents per barrel.

The Fishery Board soon after its establishment in that year introduced stringent regulations for the guidance of the Trade, and from that time the catch moved onwards and upwards in leaps and bounds. The trade then was mainly in the hands of the Dutch and the first thing the Board did was to find out the details of the Dutch cure and to insist upon their being strictly conformed to in Scotland.

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Owing to the reluctance of the New-  
foundland fishermen to abandon their  
methods, and to the careless and de-  
fective way in which some of them  
have attempted the Scotch cure, the  
herring industry in Bonne Bay and  
in the Bay of Islands and indeed all  
over Newfoundland is on the whole  
**IN AN UNSATISFACTORY AND DE-  
CLINING CONDITION**, although one  
or two American and Canadian firms  
have been able to make it fairly pro-  
fitable.

### AND THE REMEDY.

But there is no reason why the her-  
ring fishery of Newfoundland should  
not grow in the same ratio as that of  
Scotland did, if the Newfoundland  
Government will in like manner **IN-  
SIST UPON THE DETAILS OF THE  
SCOTCH CURE BEING STRICTLY  
OBSERVED**. For the presence of  
large shoals of herring along the  
coast, in the bays and in the arms  
which project from them, almost the  
whole year round, at one part of the  
Island or the other, holds out the pro-  
spect of a very remunerative branch of  
the herring industry being established  
in the Colony. The increase of the  
herring fishery in Scotland has been  
due mainly to three causes:—

- FIRST**—The system of fishing long  
distances from shore;
- SECOND**—The great extension of the  
Winter and Spring herring fisher-  
ies;
- THIRD**—THE **ADOPTION OF  
STEAM DRIFTERS AND MOTOR  
BOATS.**

### PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS

In Newfoundland up till now it has  
only been carried on in a half-hearted  
manner, and the conditions with re-  
gard to the means of capture and the  
curing of the fish are very primitive  
indeed. Still in the meantime, the her-  
ring schools which appear in the bays  
and arms at certain periods of the  
year are generally so dense that even  
the present antiquated appliances are  
sufficient to land more fish than

many curing firms could cope with,  
though none but those acquainted with  
the great increasing consumption of  
pickled herrings can realise the im-  
portance and value of this branch of  
the industry. Various attempts as is  
well known, have been made to pro-  
mote the herring fishery here and so  
far without much success. But the  
development of that fishery in a Col-  
ony which possesses one of the larg-  
est stretches of coast line for its size  
in the world, and where the herrings  
are found in such abundance, is a  
matter that should not be lightly giv-  
en up. **IT MAY THEREFORE BE  
ASKED WHAT ARE THE BEST  
MEANS TO BE ADOPTED.** I would  
strongly impress upon the Govern-  
ment the desirability of encouraging  
fishermen and fish-curers to bring  
their products up to the present re-  
quirements of the market, and in the  
initial stage of development of the  
curing of herrings, this could most  
easily be effected by the introduction  
of practical men from Scotland where  
the industry has been brought to a  
higher point of perfection than any-  
where else, and where a special study  
has been made of the requirements  
and tastes of the consumers in the  
various markets of the Continent and  
America. By bringing the ideas of  
other countries into actual operations  
the local people interested would come  
gradually to realize the importance of  
adopting modern methods, which  
would go **TO BUILD UP AN INDUS-  
TRY WHICH MIGHT IN TIME BE  
UNEQUALLED IN ANY OTHER  
PART OF THE WORLD.** I have  
come across people in my short so-  
journ in Newfoundland who take an  
extremely gloomy view of the future  
development of the herring fishery  
here, I am not of that opinion, but  
have **THE OPPOSITE BELIEF THAT  
IT HAS GREAT POSSIBILITIES.** We  
must lose sight entirely of precon-  
ceived ideas, of what has been done  
and experimented upon in the past.  
What has to be dealt with now is the  
future; and it is no answer to say that  
methods that were unsuccessful when

tried under unfavourable conditions should not again be attempted. I must not, however, be pointing out deficiencies and defects in the present methods of catching and curing without having something to suggest in the way of improving the existing state of affairs. It may be a rather difficult task to bring the herring fishery here up to the level necessary to compete with other countries and no doubt the changes which I consider necessary may be deemed by some to be useless innovations, but those in authority should do their utmost to fight down any prejudice with a firm hand. **CURING BY RULE OF THUMB, AND EVERY ONE A LAW UNTO HIMSELF**, will never establish an industry worthy of the name. Stringent rules and directions as to **HOW HERRING SHOULD BE CURED** and dealt with ought to be laid down, which fish-curers would have strictly to conform with. I shall be glad, if desired, when I return to Scotland to set out in the full report which I am drawing up a proper form of regulations such as would be applicable to this country and somewhat similar to those enforced by the Scotch Fishery Board.

### **SPECIALIZING DEMANDED.**

I am strongly of the opinion, and I think this has been pointed out by others, that the **CHIEF CAUSE OF THE INFERIOR AND INDIFFERENT CURE IS DUE TO THE COMBINED OCCUPATION OF THE FISHERMEN**, that is that all the fishermen are curers as well. This joint employment works badly, and wherever it has been tried it has been found to be a serious check upon progress. If anything were needed to emphasize the unsatisfactory nature of such a combination we have it in the general prosperity of fishermen and fish-curers who are not burdened with a similar joint occupation. The great body of the fishermen of England and Scotland devote themselves exclusively to the work of reaping the harvest of the sea, but in

Newfoundland the fishermen catch the herrings and cure them also, and in such an unpalatable way that only the poorer classes of people who cannot afford to purchase a better quality will buy this article. **THESE HERRINGS ARE IN SOME CASES PUT UP IN PORK BARRELS (WHICH RENDERS THEM UNFIT FOR THE JEWISH TRADE)** or in any other package that comes to their hands quite regardless of whether it will contain the pickle or not. There is consequently a want of uniformity in the cure and in the barrels and their construction. Moreover the fishermen in Newfoundland invariably **SPLIT THE HERRINGS AND TAKE OUT THE MILT AND ROE**, which are considered of great value in most countries, and instead fill the bellies with salt, which as the phrase is, **BURNS THE FISH AND DEPRIVES IT OF ITS FLAVOUR AND SUBSTANCE**. A law rendering it imperative that all herring barrels should be made according to a fixed standard, would be of good service. I understand there is such a law. "The Pickled Fish Inspection Act" but it does not seem to have been enforced. I would therefore suggest that the Fishery Board should draw out in a practical form regulations for the guidance of the trade. What has contributed more than anything else to the expansion of the herring industry in Scotland is the establishment of a permanent Fishery Board with a staff of competent out door officers. This Board framed practical and reasonable regulations which helped greatly to develop the fisheries. Through it bounty was paid by the Government from the year in which the Board was constituted, 1808, until 1830, to an curer who cured a certain quantity of fish up to a regulated standard, and a brand was also established to certify the quality of the fish. In 1830 the bounty was abolished, but the brand was not; the industry being in so flourishing a condition, that instead of receiving **A BOUNTY AND THE BRAND FREE THE CURERS WERE WILLING TO PAY A FEE OF 4**

**FOR THE BRAND**, which they prized highly owing to the benefits arising therefrom. The Government of Newfoundland might it is suggested, encourage curers in a similar way. Such a policy would have the same effect that it had in Scotland and the industry both as to catch and cure would gradually and steadily increase.

### SKILLED INSTRUCTORS NEEDED.

In order to carry out the Board's regulations a staff of skilled fishery instructors would have to be appointed similar to the officers of the Scotch Fishery Board. The officers of that Board are required first to furnish a certificate of their knowledge and skill both for fish curing and of cooping, after which they are nominated by the Board for examination by the Civil Service Commissioners. It must be certified that the candidate has exercised the trade of a cooper, and has been employed for a number of years in the actual curing and packing of herrings, and that he is skilful and qualified to overlook the same, and to judge whether they are properly pinned, cured, and pickled, so as to be entitled to the official brand. These officers as they move about in their districts and among the fishermen and others interested, have a keen and discerning eye for all that is going on. They critically watch every new movement, and listen to the impressions formed by all and sundry regarding any new development which is likely to take place for the benefit and welfare of the fisheries. All this they embody in their weekly reports to the Head Office in Edinburgh. I would suggest the Newfoundland Fishery Board should be empowered to appoint a few such practical officers. These are not to be found in Newfoundland but young capable men could be got from Scotland to initiate the curing and packing of herrings and the construction of proper standard barrels. In the course of time men belonging to the Colony would be enabled under their supervision to

learn the trade of a cooper and curer and become eventually eligible for this position themselves. The officers should also teach the workers in the curing yards the Scotch method of packing and curing. These workers I am informed can be obtained in suitable numbers without difficulty in the various outports.

### EXPERIMENTAL FACTORIES

I would suggest that four centres to place instructors in would be sufficient to begin with, and other centres would no doubt gradually follow. The centres which I would propose are Bonne Bay, Bay of Islands, Green Bay and some other suitable place in either Placentia Bay or Fortune Bay. I find that with the exception of Green Bay where there are three or four Scotch coopers, none of these places possess the means at present for the making of suitable barrels. I would therefore suggest that an experimental barrel factory should be erected in each place under the auspices of the Government so that improved and suitable barrels and half barrels could be constructed. By having stocks of these stored up, lots of from 20 to 50 or more could be sent to places where fishing had been commenced. The erection of such factories has been carried out in Ireland by the Imperial Government with excellent results. Canada I understand has schools for Agricultural instruction and why should not the Newfoundland Government have similar training centres for the fostering of the fisheries which mean more to her than anything else? The foundation of the herring trade depends mainly upon properly constructed barrels capable of carrying the herring to the various markets without leakage and in the pink of condition. This is the chief essential necessary to the trade. The wood for the barrels, the staves, the ends, the hoops, apart from the iron hoops, can be obtained in suitable quantities all through the Island in sufficient quantities to make all the stocks required.

## A GREAT FUTURE.

I made it my business to see for myself in a practical way when visiting the bays and settlements, if the herrings caught at certain periods of the year are suitable when cured for the Continental and American markets. I found them very satisfactory, and in every way calculated to obtain as high a price, if not higher than the Scotch product. On visiting the Bay of Islands I learned that the quality of the herrings caught there in the fall is particularly rich, the fish being fat and full of flavour, and quite as palatable as any that can be found in the North Sea. I have seen samples both of spring and of fall fish, and certainly the fall fish is a more suitable article for herring markets generally than the spring herring, and I am hopeful of a great future of the same in the markets of Russia. The American market will also be a growing one especially for herring of this quality, cured after the Scotch manner, now that the tariff in the United States has been removed. The Spring herrings are more developed, full of milt and roe, and though less rich in flavour than those caught in the Fall, are more acceptable to the German markets. The Fall herrings to my mind have the appearance of what we call in Scotland "MATJIES" which command such a high figure in the Russian markets. They are herrings found in their virgin state, on the eve of developing, and in that high condition in fat and flavour which makes them so much in demand with the epicures of St. Petersburg. These different kinds would be dealt with by the Inspectors who would affix the Government Brand applicable to each kind. It is for the satisfaction of these foreign buyers that the Government Brand is used; it denotes the quality of the herrings, and prevents one class being sold for another class which may be inferior. The means of administration of the Scotch method of curing and supervision will eventually become profitable and self sup-

porting after the trade has been nursed into strength. The most essential thing, however, is to get the cure up to the highest standard of perfection, and this can never be done if it is to be left to the fishermen's judgment to put up the herrings as they choose. Nothing but practical men capable of putting up a good, careful and superior cure in good and well constructed barrels, will suffice.

## WHAT SCOTLAND HAS DONE.

The development which has taken place in Scotland in the cure of herrings for the Continental markets within my own recollection has been wonderful. Twenty-five years ago a few of the fish-curers having realised that the old order of things would no longer satisfy the needs of the consumer, set about to bring this cure to a further stage of development. These ambitious fish-curers proceeded to the Continent to find out personally for themselves what was really wanted by their principal customers and learned there that a higher standard of excellence was required. The change which the cure has undergone is very difficult to explain. The process except for minor details, is practically the same, nothing particularly striking in the shape of newly discovered methods has been adopted, yet there is undoubtedly a considerable difference, and a fresh atmosphere is observed in all that pertains to the industry. Our Fishery Board have also been sending their General Inspector for a number of years past to the Continent, who issues a yearly report to the Board with regard to any improvement he considers necessary for the benefit of the trade. This report is published and circulated among curers and exporters of herrings. If the Fishery Board of Newfoundland thought it advisable to appoint instructors or practical officers as suggested they might in the same way deem it advisable to send one of them for two or three months in each year to the principal ports or centres to

which their herrings might be shipped in order to see and find out how they compare with the herrings from other countries, and also to ascertain what improvements, if any, were required. The strategy and tactics of trade have developed so much of recent years that competition over the whole world has been intensely severe. In the fish curing trade of modern date it is those only who are efficient producers that will cut their way to the best markets and enable their goods to become known to the consumer. And why should Newfoundland be lagging behind in this respect with the excellent quality of herrings with which the waters round her coast are teeming? **IN FACT THE HERRING FISHERY OF NEWFOUNDLAND IS PRACTICALLY UNTAPPED AND POSSESSES THE GREATEST POSSIBILITIES.** I tested the pickled herrings in various parts of the Island both in a raw and cooked state, and the fresh herrings fried, and considered them for flavour and quality superior to the bulk of herrings caught in Scotland. Indeed the herrings of Newfoundland remind me of those caught in the West or Atlantic side of Castletown, Barra, Scotland, the finest in quality and flavour in the British seas, which, being cured and selected with great care, are esteemed a delicacy and sell for 20 and 30 dollars a barrel.

### **DRIFT NET FISHING URGED**

Now I think I hear some of you say that experiments in curing after the Scotch system have been tried already and failed. I am aware of this and I am aware of the reason why, and I do not think that a few failures ought to stand in the way of persevering when the resultant rewards are so great. I think I said in the earlier part of this paper, that with the dense shoals which appear periodically in the bays, even the present antiquated appliances are capable of landing a sufficient supply of herrings, but these schools are not always in the bays, and for that reason the Newfoundland fishermen ought to be trained in drift net fishing in

deep water. I would here emphasize what has been already recommended by Mr. Mair, that is that the best means of inaugurating drift net fishing would be the sending of a few capable fishermen to Scotland to be employed as hired hands in herring fishing boats for the season. As Mr. Mair pointed out they would see the method of fishing there, and would be able in the course of a season to learn all that would be necessary for them to know in order to practice the fishing in the same way at home, and would be led to realize the importance and the possibilities of drift net fishing in the open sea.

For this purpose larger and better equipped boats will be required, and the Newfoundland fishermen have this great advantage over the fishermen of Scotland and of most other countries—they have an abundant supply of wood round nearly all their harbors, and nearly all of them build their own boats—and exceedingly good boats they are, of the kind best adapted for the rough seas they have to meet. All that they need is some form of motor power to render them independent of wind and tide. I was glad to find in the more prosperous settlements quite a number of motor boats, but in some of the smaller and more isolated harbors the fishermen have not had the means to obtain them and are seriously handicapped in consequence. The same thing occurred in Scotland in the early days of steam drifting. The report of the Scotch Departmental Committee on the North Sea Fishing Industry states,—"The fishermen in some districts took the risk, of using the new kind of vessel more readily than in others . . . . and it is quite safe to say that particular districts came to the front or lagged behind in proportion as they stuck to the sail vessels or took to steam drifters." (page 149).

### **NEED OF MOTOR BOATS**

The Newfoundland fishermen are in a better position however, than the Scotch fishermen were in, for

making the necessary change. Motor engines are much cheaper than steam, and they have been brought to a higher state of perfection than they had attained to when the Scottish fishermen were forced into the adoption of steam; the initial cost of which is greater and which is also more expensive to keep up, necessitating the services of a fireman, and engineer, whereas motor engines can dispense with both of them. Coming late into the field the fishermen here will have all the advantages of modern economical motor equipment, and unlike the Scotch, will not be obliged to go through the costly intermediary stage of steam.

The question is how can these motors be obtained, and ought state assistance to be given for that purpose? In Ireland State loans have been made for the obtaining of boats with motor engines, and with very satisfactory results; but the majority report of the Committee above referred to considered this to be undesirable in Scotland in as much as the Scotch herring fishery is already in so prosperous a condition that it needs no further stimulation. On the other hand the minority report advises it even in Scotland, for the following reasons:—"It is because we think it of great importance to the well being of the industry as a whole that a type of boat intermediate between the bare sail boat and steam drifter should be evolved to be used in the great herring fishery, that we recommend the assistance from public funds for this purpose?" (p. 176). They were of opinion that if this be not done the Scotch herring fishery must in time be restricted to the fishing communities which have already provided themselves with considerable fleets of steam drifters.

"We doubt", they stated, "whether the community can afford to regard so great a change with equanimity. It will mean that the fishing community as a whole will be divided between employers and employed." (p. 174).

## NORWAY'S LESSONS.

In Newfoundland such an eventuality will be easier to prevent than in Scotland, the conditions being almost identical with those existing in Norway, where the fishermen are not hired hands, but form an independent and "bona fide" class of fishermen.

"In Norway," the Committee states "the principal fishing is in in-shore waters, which are however, of unusual extent, in view of the abnormally long coast lines of Norway, and of the number of deep penetrating fiords and the area of sheltered water within the Island belt which fringes the Norwegian coast." (p. 9).

"The great majority of the boats are small, and accordingly the property of the actual fishermen; the average crew of open boats engaged in cod fishing is four or five. A large proportion of the fishermen are farmer and crofter fishermen who follow fishing part of the year. The protection of the island belt, however, enables the Norwegian fishermen, even with their small undecked boats, to go great distances to follow the chief fishings." p. 10.)

There could not be a more accurate description than this of the fishermen and of the coast line of Newfoundland.

The geographical conditions being the same, it may be inferred that the measures, including state aid, which have been adopted with so much success for the benefit of the fishermen in Norway might be adopted equally advantageously in Newfoundland; for the Newfoundland fishermen, like the Norwegians, are keenly desirous to retain the ownership of the boats in their own hands. Full particulars of these measures and of the state loans made to the Norwegian fishermen for the purchase both of boats and of motors will be found in Appendix 'B' of the report.

They are too detailed to be set out here, but briefly stated they are as follows:—The Board of Trade administers the fund, but the loans are only

forthcoming upon a certificate of the Fishery Inspectors. The rate of interest is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and the general period of repayment is ten years, and for the first year no interest is charged.

I will quote finally before leaving this subject the conclusion set out in the Majority Report:—"On the whole, however, it seems clear that the fishing funds in the three Scandinavian countries have served a useful purpose. They have enabled the fishing industry in these countries to advance somewhat from the stage of the pure inshore fishery, and secured a wide diffusion of the benefits of the advance among the fishing community. Probably this progress would not have been made as it has with us, if it had been left to private enterprise in the three countries, and in any case its result would have been probably less generally diffused." (p 144).

This conclusion seems to be very applicable to Newfoundland.

### COD AND ITS CURE.

**I WILL GO ON NOW TO THE COD FISHERY, IMMENSE THOUGH IT BE, IT IS CAPABLE OF STILL FURTHER EXTENSION, IF IMPROVED METHODS OF FISHING WERE ADOPTED.** At the present time, when fishermen fail to meet with success, as a rule, they go on day after day, putting down their traps in the same place, never taking into consideration that the shoals of Cod sometimes shift from one place to another. I was told however, of one man in Trinity Bay, more enterprising and persevering than his neighbours, who set a large trap in deeper water and secured in consequence, no less than 1000 quintals of cod, at the very time there was a cry that the cod fishery was a failure, and when men with traps in the inside grounds were getting little. And not only should fresh fishing grounds be sought for, but means should be adopted, as I have already pointed out, whereby a regular supply of bait could be secured, con-

currently with the operation of the bultows or trawls.

On my rounds in the various settlements, I made it a point to observe for myself how the fishermen split and salted their cod, and I was very much struck in some places with the little attempt made to properly cure the fish. On calling the attention of the fishermen to this, they said they had no encouragement to make a better cure, as they all got a uniform price independent of the quality of the article. The Cod fishery being the mainstay of the fisheries of Newfoundland, and all other fisheries merely adjuncts to it, vigorous efforts should be made to bring it up to as high a pitch of excellence as possible, and though a careless cure may not interfere with its sale in some markets, it is bound to have a detrimental effect in other markets where the taste of the consumer is more fastidious.

### SALMON.

The time at my disposal prevented me from making minute investigations with regard to the salmon fishery, but I obtained a great deal of information as to their abundance in the rivers and arms of the different bays. Sea trout I am informed are also very plentiful and very large. Since Legislative steps have been taken to prohibit nets and other engines being placed across the mouths of rivers there has been apparently a considerable increase both in the numbers and in the size of the salmon. When at Bonaventure I was told by a man that in one haul of a cod trap he secured eight tierce, and that another man got four tierce, and at Tickle Harbour I heard of one who obtained, during the season, twenty-two tierce; so that at all the little harbours they were getting salmon in large quantities. I was told too on board the "Ethie" that salmon were even more plentiful in Smith Sound and all round Random Island than they had been in Bonaventure, I

FOUND THAT ALMOST ALL OF THIS SALMON WAS SPLIT AND SALTED, AND SENT AWAY IN BARRELS, FETCHING THE COMPARATIVELY SMALL PRICE OF 16 DOLLARS A TIERCE, THE VALUE OF THE WHOLE TOTAL CATCH OF SALMON LAST YEAR AMOUNTED ONLY TO 133,437 DOLLARS, WHEREAS IF IT COULD BE EXPORTED FRESH, EITHER TO ENGLAND OR TO THE UNITED STATES IT OUGHT TO FETCH FOUR OR FIVE TIMES THE AMOUNT.

Moreover the salmon at the present time is caught almost entirely in the cod traps. If it were fished for with proper salmon nets the salmon fishery might be developed into a most important branch of the fishing industry, for from all I could gather THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT, WITH PROPER PROTECTION, NEWFOUNDLAND MIGHT BE MADE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SALMON PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

### HAKE.

When at Belleoram I noticed some women engaged in piling up heaps of fish which were in process of being dried. These fish were very large compared with the shore cod, and I was informed that they came from the Grand Banks. I was struck with their size and on making inquiries was told that they were ling. I found them as a matter of fact to be really Hake. It does not seem to be generally known in Newfoundland that the hake is considerably greater in value than either the ling or the cod. Some 25 or 30 years ago it was little esteemed in Great Britain, but of late years it has risen so much in value that it is now one of the most valuable of our sea fishes—much too valuable to be cured. Though it fetches so high a price when fresh, when cured it realizes in Newfoundland I am told from a dollar and a half to two dollars a quintal less than cod. The Hake I may

say is looked upon as of such importance that the English Fisheries Board are having investigations made into the periodic movements of the shoals by which the fishery is affected. The average price fetched by hake in Scotland I find from the report of our Fisheries Board for 1913 to have been 16/9 per cwt. and that of cod to have been only 10/8 per cwt. whilst in England its average price for the same year was £1 1s. 2d. and that of cod 12/10. There is not much hake caught in the inshore fisheries, but if the large quantities obtained on the Grand Banks could be disposed of fresh, a very lucrative business might be established. It has only, I believe, been brought in from the Grand Banks during the last two or three years—up to that time the fishermen deeming it not worth the trouble to bring it ashore. Now I am told out of the total catch of Bank fish almost one third consists of hake. At Channel I was shown some more of the same fish and, at the same place I was informed that the American buyers always called it by its real name of hake, and I was shown another fish which I was told was the ling, but this seems to be another variety of the cod family known in Great Britain as the Torsk or Tusk and in America as the Cusk. It is not a common fish in England but fairly plentiful in Scotland. Here I am told it occurs in large quantities though until the present year the fishermen generally have not troubled to cure it. It is not a particularly valuable fish, but there would be a ready market for it if supplied fresh. The average price in Scotland last year was 7/4 per cwt.

I could not obtain any definite information as to the existence of the real ling in Newfoundland waters, but I have little doubt that it does exist as it is almost invariably found with the other species of the cod family.

### FLAT FISH.

Everywhere we went we saw quantities of flat fish round the wharves

and close along the shore. These are the "flounder" or "fluke" but larger and fatter than those caught on the British coasts. Very few of the fishermen eat them, the majority indeed will not touch them. I tried them in several places both boiled and fried and considered them excellent, and I was informed that certain merchants on the West Coast who had recently exported them to America had done remarkably well with them. They would sell equally readily in Great Britain. The average price flounders fetched in Scotland last year was 13/6 per cwt. whilst in England they brought as much as 16/—, a considerably higher price in both countries than that fetched by cod. The supply I was assured is practically unlimited. This I can well believe for the flounder is an exceedingly prolific fish and in Newfoundland, as I have said up to the present time it has been scarcely fished for at all. There is a variety known by the fishermen as the deep sea flat fish which are much larger and better fish in every way. They are not often brought ashore as the fishermen beat them off their hooks, but they must be quite plentiful or they would not be caught at all with such large hooks as those on bultows or trawls, for all flat fish have very small mouths and cannot take a large hook. These deep sea flat fish would certainly fetch a high price, considerably higher than the inshore flat fish if a market were available for them.

### PLAICE.

A great many persons assert that the plaice also occurs in Newfoundland waters, but I did not see any, and I am therefore not in a position to state whether this is so or not. The fishermen take no notice of the flat fish at all and do not therefore distinguish one from the other. It may be inferred that the plaice does exist for where other flat fishes are found in such abundance, it would be strange if the plaice was

absent, although it is true the sole is absent also. Plaice is rising steadily in value in the British markets, the average price per cwt. obtained in Scotland last year being £1 11s. It being so valuable a fish and as the supply in Great Britain is steadily diminishing, it would seem to be worth while to ascertain definitely whether they are found here or not. I tried hard to do so, but I found it impossible with the time and limited means at my disposal. I was told on the West Coast that the best place to make enquiries would be St. Pierre, for the French make use of all the flat fish, and of many other fish too, which in Newfoundland are not used at all.

The value of the plaice landed last year in England was over one million pound sterling, and it has risen in value from 18/8 per cwt. in 1905 to £1 8s 11d in 1913. A great portion of the supply is obtained from the Barents Sea, that part of the Arctic Ocean including within it the White Sea, and lying between Archangel and Spitzbergen.

### HALIBUT.

The halibut is one of the largest and most valuable of the flat fish family. It is at present only fished for on the south and west coasts and there only to a small extent, but the fishing area could be very largely extended, for halibut are met with in most places around the Island wherever the water is deep. They are not caught in other places merely because there is no outlet for them, whereas on the South west coast, they can be shipped over fresh to Sydney. I saw some excellent specimens brought in by the boats at Channel, both large and small, the latter called "chicken halibut" being merely the young of the fish.

The importance of the halibut as a food fish is very considerable, and is yearly increasing. The supply heretofore has been chiefly from Iceland and from the Barents Sea but lately it has been sent over successfully from

Canada. In the last year's English Fisheries Report there is the following interesting paragraph:—"In December 1913, a consignment of Canadian halibut was delivered frozen at Grimsby, and is understood to have been placed upon the market in perfect condition. This is a new departure in our import trade in fish, the future development of which will be watched with great interest." (page XXIV.) If it be possible to send Pacific halibut to England why should it not be equally possible to send Newfoundland halibut. It is a finer fish and fetches a higher price, I am told, in the American market than the Pacific halibut does.

There are extensive grounds all round Bonne Bay which are at present only fished by the American and Canadian schooners, who get large quantities there. If a ready market could be found there is no reason why Newfoundland fishermen should not participate in this valuable fishery. The average price per cwt. last year in England was £3 5s. 6d.

### TURBOT.

I had some difficulty in obtaining a sample of what in this country is known as turbot. I got a salted one at Bonaventure, but was not able to identify it in that condition, it being split. I succeeded however in obtaining samples of it fresh at Arnold's Cove in Placentia Bay and found it to be not the real turbot, but what I think is a giant megrim, a species of flat fish quite common in British waters but not attaining to anything like so large a size. The Newfoundland variety is a remarkably fine fish. I tried it both boiled and fried and found it excellent in quality and flavour. It is salted down by the fishermen for their own use in the winter months, and it is also smoked and considered even better cured in that way. I am endeavouring to obtain a smoked sample to take home with me to Scotland, though I think there would be a better demand for it if it could

be sent over fresh. The fishermen say they are very plentiful, and particularly so in the deeper portions of Trinity Bay, and on the south coast, in Hermitage Bay and near Push-through.

### THE HADDOCK.

Is found everywhere both on the coasts and on the Grand Banks. Until quite recently it was not utilized, but of late years it has been brought ashore and cured along with the cod though it does not fetch so high a price. From the size and appearance of those I saw they must be very plentiful. The average price in England, last year was 17s. 2d. per cwt. and in Scotland it was 15s—nearly two third greater than the average price fetched by cod. It is a fish that could be easily sent in a fresh condition to the market, bearing handling well, if transportation facilities were available.

### WHITING.

It is curious that whiting should not be found in Newfoundland waters, but this seems to be the case. I made careful enquiries everywhere, but could obtain no evidence that they had ever been seen.

### CAPLIN.

Unfortunately the caplin season was over about a week before my arrival, and I did not see any of the fish when caught though I had some of it smoked. It comes into the coast for five or six weeks in June and July in such immense quantities that it would be of great value if it could be utilised as a food product instead of being used as it now is, merely for bait and as manure for the fields. It is a delicate fish which ought to be eaten soon after being caught, for it won't stand much handling, but I find in spite of this several persons have done very well with it, sending it to New York, packed in boxes with ice,

If there was any regular means of transport it would certainly command a ready sale and a high price. I would think that it might also be tinned like sardines, but I was told this has been tried several times, and always without success. I am of the opinion, however, that if they were thrown upon perforated trays to dry, then lightly grilled and smoked, and afterwards canned with olive oil as is done with a certain class of sardines they would have a better chance of being successfully preserved.

### SMELTS.

The smelt, or what is known in Scotland as the sparring is a very valuable fish which is in much demand in the States and in Great Britain also. In Scotland it is caught only in the Firth of Forth, where the average price last year was £3 per cwt. It is found in large quantities on the West coast, at Bay St. George and at Port au Port where a certain amount is shipped away to the States, though not very much. For the total value of the shipments last year was only \$6,505 (dollars). It is also met with in Mortier Bay, at Random in Trinity Bay, and at various places in Notre Dame Bay, and a large trade might be done with it if it could be marketed regularly, as it is a very delicious fish, and in Great Britain, as the price it fetched shows, a fish which is very highly thought of.

### OTHER FISHES.

There are other fish very plentiful all round the coast, which are not used at all, the fishermen merely beating them off their hooks, or throwing them overboard if caught in their traps. For instance, there is the skate which here is called the Maiden Ray. It is of considerable value in England, the average price per cwt. last year being 14/-. There is also the bream of which I obtained a fine specimen at Channel. In England it fetches 5/- per cwt.

Then there are eels, I had specimens caught for me at Placentia and am told they are common everywhere. They fetched in England last year 14/7 per cwt.

Lastly there is the ubiquitous dogfish, which is so common in places that it has become a veritable nuisance. Nothing at all is done with it here, but in England it is used for various purposes, and you may be surprised to know it is rapidly becoming of value as a food fish, the average price being 6/3 per cwt. The last year's English Fisheries Report says:—"The great development of the landing of dogfish continues and the landings of 1913 surpass all previous records with a total of approximately 65,000 cwts." That speaks for itself.

### TUNA.

At the Bay of Islands one of these fish jumped out of the water close to our motor boat, and I was told that on the previous day there had been a school of at least 200 of them in the bay. They are plentiful the fishermen say all round the coast. We do not have them at all in British waters, but there is a valuable Tuna or 'Tunny' fishery in the Mediterranean, which has existed from classical times, and within the last year or two an industry has sprung up in canning tuna on the Californian coast, where they were also abundant.

### LOBSTERS.

I had no opportunity of seeing anything of the Lobster fishery as the close season began almost directly after my arrival. I was glad to hear that steps have been taken for the prohibition of the spawning lobsters, a strict close time having been established, and the fishermen paid a certain sum for every spawn bearing lobster returned to the sea. The Government has also caused certain inlets on the coast to be enclosed as natural breeding preserves into which numbers of spawn-bearing lobsters

are introduced. The lobsters fetched last year in Scotland an average of 1/3 each, although they are not nearly so large as those found in Newfoundland. It is evident therefore, that the time will come when lobsters will be far too valuable to be canned. They will all be sent to market in a fresh state.

### HARBOURS.

Newfoundland enjoys the inestimable advantage of a great number of excellent natural harbours. There are few stretches of straight shore without a harbor of some kind. Almost everywhere the fishermen can find shelter in time of need. In the North Sea on the contrary—and it is a particularly rough and stormy sea—the chief fishing ports are on the most exposed portions of the coast. The East coast of England is even worse off than Scotland for fishing harbors, but on the whole of the North east shore of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Cromarty Firth, a distance of some sixty miles there is no good natural harbour. At Aberdeen, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, and Wick, fishing-boat harbours have, it is true, been made, but only with a great expenditure of labour and cost.

The importance of harbours for the efficient prosecution of a fishery cannot be over-estimated. Men will hang on to their nets to the last moment when they know they have a place of refuge at hand into which they can run at any time of the tide. But they will not risk it when they know that the neighboring harbor has a difficult and shallow entrance and is only accessible at certain states of the tide. The requirements of a fishing boat harbor were stated in the Report of the Commissioners, appointed in 1878 to inquire into the Scotch herring fishery to be as follows:—"The requisites of a perfect fishing boat harbour are an entrance which will allow the boats to have free access and egress at all times of the tide; perfect shelter within the entrance, suf-

ficient space for all the boats that frequent the place to be together without crowding or jostling, enough depth of water in every part of the harbour to enable them to be afloat at all times of the tide, and proper facilities for taking in their nets and gear and landing their fish."

### A NATIONAL ASSET.

There are very few harbors in Newfoundland which do not comply with all these requirements. No country in the world has, I should say, so immense a coast line, with its vast indented fiords or bays, with great inner arms extending out of them still further into the land, and nowhere are there such wonderful deep water land-locked natural harbours, lying often within a few miles of each other, and so capacious that a whole fleet of the largest steamers might shelter in them with ease.

The two greatest necessities for the development of a fishery are suitable harbours, and the adoption of steam or motor propulsion for the fishing craft; and the constantly increasing size of the fishing boats makes the spacious deep water harbours of Newfoundland a national asset of the greatest possible value. The provision of motor power would conduce to the economic development of the fisheries by affording more regular employment of the boats and enabling fishermen to work larger boats where by they could go more into the open sea; and by enabling the fish to be brought to market more quickly, more regularly, and in better condition.

### LIMITLESS SUPPLY.

I have dealt already with the supply of fish, most observers agree that it is practically inexhaustible. With the facilities for catching it, with its harbors and its great land-locked fiords, Newfoundland ought to build up a fresh fish industry which will in time equal its salt cod industry, and be unrivalled anywhere in any part of the world. The initial difficulty lies

in the very immensity of the coast line—in the means for collecting the fish when caught, and concentrating it at suitable points for transportation to the European and American markets; for the first essential—I would again lay stress upon this—to a successful fresh fish industry is as far as possible a constant and uninterrupted supply of fish, and regularity and rapidity of delivery.

### TRAIN FERRY SERVICE.

Now how can that be secured? I have been asked by the Government to give my opinion regarding the feasibility and usefulness of the proposal which has recently been put forward for the linking together of the two great bays, Placentia and Trinity—by means of a short standard gauge rail line across the Isthmus of Avalon, and the establishment in connection with it of a train ferry service to Louisburg, from little Southern Harbour, or from some other suitable port on the Placentia Bay side of the Isthmus. I do not care to offer any opinion as to the train ferry. I can of course see that if such a thing be possible as conveying a train upon a steamer in the way that is outlined, it will save handling, always a great desideratum when dealing with fresh fish, and that it will insure a more regular as well as a more rapid service. But whether the advantages which can be obtained are sufficiently great to justify the putting on of a train ferry boat instead of employing the less costly means of a refrigerator steamer, I am not in a position to say, but I have been able to form a very definite opinion as to the value of the proposed line, I think it would form an absolutely necessary link in by far the most practical and economical means for the opening up of a market for fresh fish both in Europe and America, for the main difficulty in the way of establishing such a market has not been in the catching of fish, but in the collecting and concentrating of it in the way most suitable for transportation.

### COLLECTING SYSTEM.

Each of the great inner arms of the bays is a fishing ground in itself, and the problem is how these fishing grounds can best be utilized not separately, but in co-operation with some general system of transportation.

Now a glance at the conformation of the two great bays in question Trinity and Placentia, will show how easy it would be to organize a collecting service in each of them; to gather up the fish day by day as it is caught, and to hand it over at the two terminal points on each side of the Isthmus. In order to judge for myself I went to Trinity accompanied by Mr. Thomson who has had so much to do with the proposal, and we took the 'Ethie' to Clarendville, and I was able to see how simple a matter it would be for a motor boat doing about ten knots and carrying from 100 to 150 tons of cargo to go rapidly round the bay every twenty-four hours, collecting fish on its way. The distance is not great from Catalina at the entrance of the Bay to Tickle Harbour at its head, only about 70 miles, and a boat such as this could call for fish all down one side and up the other; at Catalina, Port Rexton, Trinity, Bonaventure, Ireland's Eye, Heart's Ease and Bay Bulls Arm, deliver its fish there and go up the other side to Tickle Harbour Heart's Content, Old and New Perlican and Grate's Cove, and then go across the bay again to Catalina. The fishermen are already getting motors for their boats, and such a service would stimulate them to get still bigger and better boats and motors so that they could go out and fish without difficulty or dependence on wind and tide, and be able to have their fish ready every day to meet the collecting boat at the point most handy for them—and the most important point of all to receive in return for it ready cash. I afterward went over Placentia Bay in the 'Argyle' and found that the facilities for collection, though different, were almost equally satisfactory. There the

train ferry or refrigerator steamer, would start from Little Southern Harbour or whichever port might be chosen, and the fishermen could bring their fish there, from all round the head of the Bay, from Sound Island, Merasheen, Long Island, and the other innumerable Islands with which the Bay is studded. A call could be made by the train ferry or steamer, on the way to Louisburg, at Harbor Buffett, which place would also serve as a convenient collecting point for the fish from all the Islands round, and another call would be made at Burin, and a collecting boat like that proposed for Trinity Bay could bring the fish there from Trepassey, St. Mary's Bay and Lamaline.

### IN WINTER.

In the winter months when the navigation of Trinity Bay is interrupted, the Trinity collecting boat could be used to bring fish from Channel and Fortune Bay to Burin, where the Trans-Atlantic Boat would also be able to connect, Burin being open all the year round. Apart from the train ferry enterprise the railway across the Isthmus would be useful in bringing Trinity Bay and Placentia Bay into closer touch so that for instance when there is bait in one Bay and not in the other, the fishermen would not be delayed in their fishing as they are now, but would be able to cross over from one Bay to the other. Before I left Scotland I was given by my Board a copy of the very valuable and instructive reports made to your Fisheries Department by Mr. Adolph Nielson. They have been of great use to me. In one of them published in 1894, I find that Mr. Nielson appreciated the advantage that would accrue to the fisherman from providing easy means of communication between these two Bays, and for that purpose he advocated the laying of a tramway across the Isthmus. The advantage resulting from a railway would of course be infinitely greater.

Much of the cod used in England

comes from Iceland, and why should not Newfoundland cod compete with it? For cod is a fish that properly handled will keep for a long time, the Iceland trawlers being away for as long as three weeks. Herring, too, travel well, and the Newfoundland herring have a rather tougher skin, than our Scotch herring which will enable them to stand transportation better. Cod, herring, salmon, lobsters, halibut, and flat fish will be the main source of supply, but once get such a means as this for getting the fish away and before long every fish in the sea that comes to the net or to the line will be utilized as is the case in the densely populated countries of Europe.

### OTHER ASPECTS.

I have dealt with so far upon the purely commercial aspects of the change which the Government desire to bring about from a trade in salt and cured fish to one in fresh fish—but there are other aspects of it which are even more important, the effect which it will have on the community and the greater prosperity and independence of the fishermen, for fresh fish always insures better prices and immediate payment. In the Report of the North Sea Fisheries, from which I have already quoted it is stated that the relatively high value generally realized by the Danish Fisheries seems due to the fact that the catch has a ready access to the chief market, and is as for the most part sold as fresh and live fish." Not only do the fishermen obtain higher prices for fresh fish, but generally they are paid for it in cash, and this tends to make them independent and to do away with the system of advances by the merchants, which always has so harmful an effect upon the fishing population. The report lays particular stress upon this in their survey of the Norwegian fisheries. There is a passage in which it is very applicable to the conditions prevailing in many places here, and to those which prevailed at one time in Shetland and

the West Coast of Scotland. It is as follows:—"In a great part of these northern lands we find the same set of conditions. The population is scattered, there is no market for fresh fish. Fish must therefore be dried or sold to the merchant which causes delay in payment, and that is often payment by truck. We have therefore the old fashioned 'peasant trade' as it is called, by barter with indebtedness for the fisherman and speculation for the trader." Fresh fish, cash payments, and free competition, are the knell of all that; they always mean freedom and the independence of the fishermen.

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I would like to say how much I regret not having been able to go either to the Labrador or to the French Shore. My time has been so short I have not had time to do so, but in addition to Trinity and Placentia Bays, I have been able to visit Notre Dame Bay and obtain just a glimpse of Cape Broyle, Trepassey, St. Mary's, and Salmonier, as well as of the wonderful coast from Grand Bank to Channel and to spend also a day or two in that magnificent Bay, the Bay of Islands. I have been able, therefore, to form some idea of the greatness of your fisheries, and of the extent and grandeur of your coasts.

*(From the St. John's Newfoundland, Daily News of Sept. 26th, 1914.)*

Though a large number attended the reading on Friday at the Grenfell Institute, of a paper by Walter Luff, Esq., Fish Officer of Peterhead, Scotland, on the Fisheries of Newfoundland and their possible development, the gathering was not so large as the importance of the subject warranted. Minister of Marine and Fisheries Piccott presided, and on the platform were His Excellency the Governor, attended by Capt. Goodridge, A.D.C., also Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris and Sir W. H. Horwood. Others present were Hons J. R. Bennett, R. K. Bishop, P. Templeman, R. A. Squires, M. G. Winter, W. C. Job, Messrs. Lloyd, Hickman, Grimes, Devereaux, Halfyard, Currie and Higgins, M.H.A.'s, Insp. O'Reilly, W. A. Munn, J. F. Murphy, Dr. Burke, S. P. Whiteway, G. C. Fearn, A. McDougall, and H. C. Thomson. Introduced in a brief address by the Chairman, Mr. Duff read an interesting paper, in which all branches of the local fishery problems were discussed. The herring fishery received the greatest attention, but all the fisheries actually or potentially were touched on. A verbatim report of his address on the her-

ring fishery is to be found in another column. The remainder of his paper will appear in to-morrow's issue. In proposing a vote of thanks the Governor said the address just delivered was of such extent and covered so much important ground that he could not adequately deal with it in the short time at his disposal. He thought the suggestions made were of importance. Though the codfishery had been practically only touched on, the subject of herring had been illuminated, and the development of this branch of our resources depends largely on standardization in the cure as pointed out. We should reap more benefit than Scotland from this fishery. By perseverance the Scotch have built up a great industry and we can do the same. Referring to fresh fish and its exportation, he thought he saw in the address the suggestions of Mr. H. C. Thomson, one of the best friends of Newfoundland. If such an industry could be started, the benefits would be great indeed. The supplies of all foods are short now and will be for some time, to all markets, and the introduction of fish, a cheaper article than meat, would result in good returns.

Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris seconded the vote, pointing out that the speaker had proven himself thoroughly qualified as a fish inspector, and that his report in extended form would prove of very great value. The moral, he said, to be learned from the lecture is: "We can, by united effort, clear of party politics, bring the herring fishery up to the level of the codfishery." The Fishery Commission had been agreed to at last session by both sides of the House, and Mr. Duff had come in response to the request made by him during his recent visit

to London. As a result of the report to be prepared by Mr. Duff, he hoped capital would be so stimulated that the suggestions made in the address might be quickly realized.

Mr. A. McDougall thought the time had come when we should seize the situation with both hands. The advice given by Mr. Duff should be followed up, and, speaking from experience as one connected with the fisheries, he felt it would result in vast benefit to both fishermen and merchants and make our men the best vaild of their class in the world.